

COLUMBUS STEPPING INTO THE SPOTLIGHT WITH NEW FILM COMMISSION

Local team committed to bringing attention and productions to Central Ohio

Columbus, Ohio (January 23, 2006) In an effort to bring more film and commercial productions and jobs to Central Ohio, a local team has stepped forward to create Columbus' first Film Commission. On January 23, 2006, the Columbus Film Commission was launched officially kicking-off the effort with a new FILM COLUMBUS website at www.filmcolumbus.com to focus on serving and marketing the film and video industry in Columbus.

"Since the State closed the Ohio Film Commission, Columbus and other areas have not had representation to market our communities and help keep production professionals working, and we are going to change that with Film Columbus," said Mayor Michael B. Coleman. "We've seen some great success stories in Cleveland and Cincinnati as their teams worked hard to bring productions to their regions along with the jobs, spending and attention that films and commercials can bring, and today the time is right for Columbus to have its own team."

The Ohio Film Commission ceased operation in 2002, since that time there have only been limited resources for film, video, multi-media and print organizations both locally and nationally to seek assistance for production needs in Columbus and surrounding areas. Local coordination was limited to the partnership of the Mayor's Office with local volunteers.

"There's so much talent, great locations and resources in the Columbus market that it was clearly time to invest locally and create a tool that will keep productions in the Central Ohio area as well as attract outside companies," said Gail Mezey, Executive Director of the Greater Columbus Film Commission. "We are breaking new ground for the area and it will make a difference as we look for new ways to market Columbus' great assets."

The Columbus Film Commission is designed to assist production groups in facilitating their projects with personnel as well as locations, lodging, catering and equipment. Because regulations vary greatly from city to city, the Columbus Film Commission is a resource that will aid companies in acquiring the necessary permits for shooting in the Central Ohio area. Film Columbus will make the Central Ohio area an attractive destination for productions locally, nationally and internationally.

The creation of Film Columbus is intended to act as a production resource for film, video and still photography. Currently Film Columbus is also working with local businesses and the Office of the Mayor to study potential incentives that could make the Greater Columbus Area an even better, more accessible and desirable production destination.

The Greater Columbus Film Commission is a non-profit organization, and member of the Association of Film Commissions (AFCI). Unlike many film commissions nationwide, which are funded by government operations, the Greater Columbus Film Commission is an independent non-profit organization governed by a board of directors. The Greater Columbus Film Commission was founded by local production professional Gail Mezey.

Film Columbus' website was designed by Columbus production professional and former DreamWorks employee Phil Garrett in association with Planetary Media.

For more information about Film Columbus visit our website:

www.filmcolumbus.com

For phone inquiries please call: (614) 264-2324.